

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 5, 6 and 7, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1-3, 8, 12-16 and 26-36 stand directed under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by King et al. All independent claims 1, 15, 26, 29 and 31 have been amended to incorporate the features of claims 6 and 7, which are indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, all pending claims 1-36 are now believed to be allowable.

The dependent claims that stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now also allowable since their respective independent claims are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.


New claim 37 includes subject matter described in original claim 1 and further describes that the magnetically inductive device is in a common electrical path which is shared by each of the current-conducting-bidirectional-voltage-blocking switches.

The King et al. reference discloses a first interface converter 14 including a first inductor L_f connected to a battery 10, and a second interface converter 24 including a second inductor L_f connected to an energy storage device 22 (see Figs. 1 and 2, for example). The two inductors L_f in the interface converters 14 and 24 are connected respectively to switching devices TB1 and TB2. Thus, the King et al. reference teaches providing a separate inductor L_f for each of the interface converters 14 and 24 that are on two separate electrical paths from the input voltage sources 10 and 22. In contrast, the present invention as described in claim 37 employs an inductive device which is provided in a common electrical path shared by more than one switch, i.e., a common inductive device is provided for all the switches in the system. For this reason, claim 37 and its dependent claim 38 are believed to be allowable over King et al.

For all of the above reasons, the present invention is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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